

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 19-34 were examined, with claims 1-18 having been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. All withdrawn claims have been cancelled, and remaining claims have been amended as noted above. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants note the examiner's statement regarding priority. At the present time, applicants are not asserting that any particular claims are entitled to priority. Applicants do not, however, waive their right to do so in the future.

The rejections for indefiniteness are addressed as follows. Applicants point out that claim 20 was amended in the preliminary amendment submitted on October 4, 2006. In that amendment, the appropriate reference to the second expansible "member" was introduced. Claim 23 has now been amended to provide appropriate antecedent basis. Claim 24 has been amended to conform to the amendment made to claim 23. With these amendments, applicants believe that all claims meet the definiteness requirements.

Turning now to the out rejections, all claims were rejected as being anticipated by or obvious over the '614 Marino patent, the '003 Latson patent, the '647 Khairkhahan application, the Brenneman '300 application, and the Kinsey '274 patent.

Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, applicants have amended independent claims 19 and 29 to recite a preferred aspect of the present invention, i.e., that the first expansible member includes a wire which is shiftable between an elongate contracted configuration and a helical expanded configuration, where the wire is used to deploy the first expansible member.

As none of the cited art teaches such a first expansible member, it is believed that all claims now distinguish the art, and it is requested that the claims be allowed and the patent be passed to issue at an early date.

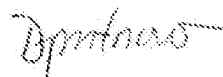
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Reply to Office Action of February 6, 2007

PATENT

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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